

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 258500

NODIS

WHITE HOUSE FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUDAPEST 3750 ACTION SECSTATE 28 OCT 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T BUDAPEST 3750

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: SCUL, HU, US

SUBJECT: THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

REF: SECSTATE 255571

1. I MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER PUJA OCTOBER 27 TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL. OUR CONVERSATION BEGAN WITH A REFERENCE TO THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH PUJA IN NEW YORK AND PUJA ASKED ME TO RELAY TO THE SECRETARY HIS PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THEIR MEETING.

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2. I TOLD PUJA THAT THE SECRETARY HAS INSTRUCTED ME TO FOLLOW-UP ON HIS REMARKS IN NEW YORK CONCERNING THE CROWN. I THEN OUTLINED THE ESSENTIALS OF THE RETURN SCENARIO PER REFTEL, SAID WE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK TO DECEMBER 3 OR 4 AS TENTATIVE TARGET DATES, AND TOLD PUJA THAT THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO NAME A SENIOR USG OFFICIAL TO HEAD THE U.S. DELEGATION.

3. PUJA WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED BY MY MESSAGE ON THE PROSPECTIVE RETURN OF THE CROWN. HE ASSURED ME THAT THE U.S. CROWN DELEGATION WOULD RECEIVE AN APPROPRIATELY FRIENDLY RECEPTION IN BUDAPEST. HE ANTICIPATED NO DIFFICULTY WITH THE OUTLINE OF THE SCENARIO WHICH I HAD SKETCHED OUT TO HIM. HE SPECIFICALLY AGREED TO A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND TO COORDINATION OF LANGUAGE TO BE USED AT THE CEREMONY. NOR WAS THERE ANY PROBLEM ABOUT MEDIA REPRESENTATION. PUJA WAS ALSO RECEPTIVE TO THE IDEA OF THE CROWN'S RETURN BEING TREATED AS AN ACT OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND HUNGARIAN PEOPLES. HE STRESSED HIS CONVICTION THAT THE RETURN OF THE CROWN WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. PUJA SAID HE WOULD REPORT IMMEDIATELY OUR CONVERSATION TO THE GOVERNMENT LEADERS. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THERE MIGHT BE A DELAY IN MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE RETURN BECAUSE A HIGH-LEVEL HUNGARIAN DELEGATION WILL LEAVE FOR MOSCOW THIS SUNDAY AND NOT RETURN UNTIL NOVEMBER 8 OR 9. THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS DELEGATION MUST APPROVE THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RETURN OF THE CROWN. HE ASKED IF IT WOULD BE TOO LATE TO BEGIN OUR PREPARATIONS AFTER THE DELEGATION'S RETURN. PUJA AGREED WITH MY SUGGESTION THAT WE START WORK NOW ON THE DETAILS AND HAVE A SCENARIO READY FOR APPROVAL UPON
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RETURN OF THE TOP HUNGARIAN OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR BARTHA, WHO WAS PRESENT, HAS ALREADY INFORMED ME THAT WE WILL MEET SHORTLY TO FOLLOW UP AS AGREED WITH PUJA.

5. MY CONVERSATION ALSO COVERED MFN (REPORTED SEPTTEL, BUDAPEST 3749. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE MESSAGE I DELIVERED ON THE CROWN MADE PUJA MORE RECEPTIVE TO OUR PROPOSALS ON MFN.

6. AFTER WE HAD COVERED BOTH SUBJECTS AND PUJA RELAXED A BIT, HE PHILOSOPHIZED FOR A FEW MINUTES ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE CROWN IN HUNGARIAN HISTORY. HE REMARKED THAT THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE ARE FEW IN NUMBER AND HAVE HAD TO STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR NATIONAL EXISTENCE OVER THE LAST THOUSAND YEARS. THE CROWN HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF THAT HISTORY.
KAISER.
UNQUOTE VANCE".

SECRET

NNN

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